

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AGR-20 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-08 CEA-02 CIEP-02 OMB-01 DRC-01

/104 W

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R 111531Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9284

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 0585

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, SF

SUBJECT: SUGAR - APPROACH TO GOVERNMENTS OF QUOTA COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 022675

1. BECAUSE OF POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT PREFERABLE NOT RPT NOT TO APPROACH SAG ON SA EXPORT PERFORMANCE IN RELATION TO NEW SUGAR LEGISLATION. FOLLOWING INFO OBTAINED BY CONGEN FROM SOUTH AFRICA SUGAR ASSOCIATION (SASA) IN DURBAN, WHICH ACTUALLY HANDLES OVERSAES SALES AND SHIPMENTS.

2. SASA SHIPPED 20,097 METRIC TONS (TEL QUEL) TO US MARKET ON DEC. 19, 1973, IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT HER 1974 US QUOTA AND PLANS FULFILL BALANCE QUOTA ALLOTMENT JULY 1974 WITH ADDITIONAL SHIPMENT APPROXIMATELY 30,000 METRIC TONS (TEL QUEL). SASA ALSO SHIPPED 11,900 METRIC TONS (TEL QUEL) TO US IN NOV. 1973 AGAINST EXTRA QUOTA FIRST COME/FIRST SERVE
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ALLOTMENT, BUT HAS NO PRESENT PLANS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF

SECOND EXTRA QUOTA ALLOTMENT WHICH EXPIRES MARCH 1. THERE IS, HOWEVER, SMALL POSSIBILITY SASA WILL DECIDE APPLY DEC. 19 SHIPMENT AGAINST EXTRA QUOTA ALLOCATION RATHER THAN QUOTA ALLOTMENT. IF THIS DECISION MADE, THEN US QUOTA WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE FILLED UNTIL THIRD QUARTER. FINAL DECISION THIS REGARD WILL BE MADE AT SASA EXPORT MEETING FEB 19.

3. SASA HAS IN PAST USUALLY FULFILLED US QUOTA ALLOTMENT IN FIRST QUARTER, DELAY THIS YEAR ATTRIBUTED BY EXPORT MANAGER TO LOCAL CROP SHORTFALL (DOWN 200,000 METRIC TONS TO 1,753,000 METRIC TONS), TIGHT MARKET COMMITMENTS AND UNUSUALLY HEAVY RAINS WHICH HAVE DELAYED MILLING OPERATIONS. PRICE ALLEGEDLY NOT A FACTOR.

4. COMMENT: SAG HAS BEEN SCRUPULOUS IN FULFILLING US SUGAR QUOTA OBLIGATIONS TO WHICH INTER ALIA THEY ATTACH POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. IF ANYTHING, QUOTA SHIPMENTS TO US HAVE ENJOYED PREFERENCE AND SASA HAS ATTEMPTED TO MEET ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS. CURRENT HEAVY RAINS WILL PROBABLY REDUCE PRODUCTION BUT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT AFFECT TOTAL OF QUOTE SHIPMENTS TO US THOUGH TIMING MAY SLIP.

5. PLEASE ADVISE IF ADDITIONAL INFO REQUIRED OR IF DEPT. WISHES EMBASSY TO MAKE FORMAL APPROACH TO SAG.
SMITH

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